

others need to realize our own dreams without destroying the planet.

It is about not being complacent. It is about getting on a new energy path. I believe an aggressive renewable electricity standard leads us down that path.

I urge all of my colleagues to support an aggressive standard. I suggest Minnesota's standard: 25 percent by 2025 for renewable electricity. It is a start down the path.

#### TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN PARREN J. MITCHELL

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to a fallen pillar of the movement to extend equal opportunity to thousands of African-American and minority businesses throughout our Nation: Congressman Parren J. Mitchell.

With the passing of former Congressman Mitchell on May 28, 2007, our country has lost one of its legendary advocates for minority business owners, a giant who knew that the struggle for civil rights and equal opportunity would be decided in America's board rooms as well as its voting booths and lunch counters.

Congressman Mitchell fought with heart, grit, integrity, and determination to level the playing field so more minority firms could do business with the Federal Government. He didn't just serve as chairman of the House Small Business Committee, he served as Congress's conscience. He also was founder and chairman of the Minority Business Enterprise Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Congressman Mitchell's life was an incredible story of courage and resolve. He became the first African-American graduate student at the University of Maryland when he challenged the university's policy of segregation. He was the first African American elected to Congress from the State of Maryland. He was the first African American elected to Congress who lived below the Mason-Dixon line since 1898. And he was the first African American to chair the House Small Business Committee.

Congressman Mitchell's work on that committee has left a legacy that is as long and impressive as his commitment to equal opportunity for all of our nation's citizens. Many of his policies made it possible for the rise of the minority business community. In 1976, he attached an amendment to a public works bill stipulating that cities and States receiving Federal grants had to award 10 percent of the money to minority-owned businesses. That year he also managed to pass a law requiring contractors to document their goals in contracting with minority-owned companies. In 1980, he was able to successfully amend the Surface Transportation Assistance Act to require 10 percent of the money to be set aside for minority businesses.

On May 22, 2007, in the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entre-

preneurship we held a hearing to look at the state of minority small businesses. And while the witnesses at the hearing revealed that there have been many gains for minority businesses, they also revealed that there is still more that needs to be done. I believe that the accomplishments of those who testified at the hearing would have made Congressman Mitchell proud. I also believe that the testimony about discriminatory practices that still confront minority businesses would have confirmed for him as it did for me that there are still more hills to climb.

The challenge now is to climb those hills by creating opportunities for minority businesses that will do justice to the memory of Congressman Mitchell. As we move forward in the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, the best way to do that is to pass laws that expand opportunities for all Americans who have been shut out or left behind.

#### VOTE EXPLANATIONS

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I regret that on May 24 I was unable to vote on the motion to concur in House amendment to Senate amendment to H.R. 2206, the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007. Regarding vote No. 181, I would have voted in favor of the motion to concur in House amendment to Senate amendment to H.R. 2206. My vote would not have altered the result of this motion.

Mr. President, I also regret that on May 24 I was unable to vote on certain provisions of S. 1348, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007. I wish to address these votes so that the people of the great State of Kansas, who elected me to serve them as U.S. Senator, may know my position.

Regarding vote No. 176, on amendment No. 1186, I would have voted in favor of this amendment. My vote would not have altered the final result of this vote.

Regarding vote No. 177, on amendment No. 1158, I would have voted in favor of this amendment. My vote would not have altered the final result of this vote.

Regarding vote No. 178, on amendment No. 1181, I would not have voted in favor of this amendment. My vote would not have altered the final result of this vote.

Regarding vote No. 179, on amendment No. 1223, I would have voted in favor of this amendment. My vote would not have altered the final result of this vote.

Regarding vote No. 180, on amendment No. 1157, I would not have voted in favor of this amendment. My vote would not have altered the final result of this vote.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

FIRST LIEUTENANT KEITH NEAL HEIDTMAN

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, every Memorial Day, words fight a losing battle

against action. Each year, as spring warms into summer, we pause our lives and bow our heads in safety, and grope for words to honor the men and women who have made that safety possible. Inevitably, we fail; we say "fallen" when we mean "killed"; we say "sacrifice" for those who died unwillingly, in great pain. I believe we do so because we want to find a register for our voice to match the heroism of their work, but, also, because high words shield us from the immediacy of death in war. Even as we remember, we can't help looking away.

But some lack that luxury. They are in Iraq and Afghanistan, and they are living the war we speak about. For 10 American soldiers in Iraq, Memorial Day was their last day.

Last week, the Senate was out of session in commemoration of Memorial Day, but now that we have returned, I want to honor the memory of one of those 10 soldiers: Army 1LT. Keith Neil Heidtman. He was a native of Norwich and a graduate of the University of Connecticut. He was 24 years old. On Monday, May 28, the helicopter he was copiloting crashed, likely brought down by enemy fire. Early the next morning, an Army chaplain brought the news to Lieutenant Heidtman's family.

For Maureen and Arthur Robidoux, his mother and stepfather, for Kerry Heidtman, his father, for Chris Heidtman, his uncle, and for Keely Heidtman, his older sister, memories will never fill the place of the lives they loved. "If you had to pick your son, this is who you would pick," said Chris Heidtman. "He was handsome, he was bright". A star baseball player and a distinguished ROTC cadet, Lieutenant Heidtman volunteered for pilot training upon his graduation in 2005.

He learned the value of service from his parents, both public servants themselves: his mother at the State Department of Children and Families, and his father in a State child-support program. His death reminds us that the highest service carries the highest cost. "We're sending our finest, and we're losing them," said Lieutenant Heidtman's uncle.

So today we honor one of our finest, who wore our uniform and died long before his time. Next Memorial Day, his name will join the rolls of our dead. I pray that by then time will have soaked up his family's tears. Next spring, we will bow our heads and look for words to do him justice. I don't believe those words exist. His best memorial will be in our silence.

#### WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, earlier this week in a special chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, based in The Hague, proceedings began in the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who is accused of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and serious violations of international